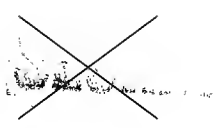


12/13/76



AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (185-789)
FROM: LEGAT, BUENOS AIRES (157-35)(P)
CHILBOM

Remycab 10/1/76, which in part set forth the circumstances of the assassination of retired Chilean Army General CARLOS PRATS GONZALEZ in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 9/30/74.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and five copies of self-explanatory investigative inserts, which contain a translation from the Spanish language of the official Federal Police of Argentina Bomb Squad report concerning the explosive device placed in General PRATS' car, which killed him.

Also enclosed for the Bureau are the original and four copies of a photograph depicting the remains of General PRATS' automobile, in which the bomb was placed. 157-35-1A-5

Bureau is requested to provide appropriate copies of the aforementioned enclosures to WFO and to the FBI Laboratory.

It is noted that the original photograph (6" x 4") showing the remains of General PRATS' car is much clearer than the 6 1/2" x 10" blow-up, which were made by the U. S. Embassy, Buenos Aires, Photo Lab. The Buenos Aires Embassy Photo Lab does not have the necessary sophisticated copying equipment to make any clearer copies. Accordingly, the Bureau may desire to have the photographic section improve upon the enclosed copies

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REASON: 1.5 (D)
DECLASSIFY ON: X-6
argentina project

- 5 - Bureau (Encs. 11)
 - (1 - Foreign Liaison Unit)
 - (2 - WFO)(185-425)
 - 2 - Buenos Aires
 - (1 - 109-733)(Assassination of
- RWS:jn (7) General CARLOS PRATS GONZALEZ)

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OTHERWISE~~



BUE 157-35

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of the photographs showing the remains of General PRATS' automobile.

From facts available to the Buenos Aires Office it would appear that the bomb placed in General PRATS' automobile was considerably more powerful than the one, which was placed in LETELIER's vehicle.

As noted in reBUEcab no suspects were developed during the [Federal Police of Argentina's investigation] of the PRATS' assassination. (S) (U)

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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On November 29, 1976, a confidential source abroad made available a report in the Spanish language dated October 15, 1974, prepared by the Federal Police of Argentina Bomb Squad, concerning the bombing of the automobile of retired Chilean Army General CARLOS PRATS GONZALEZ which took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina on September 30, 1974. General PRATS and his wife died as a result of the bombing.

A translation of the above-described report from the Spanish language follows:

TRANSLATION FROM SPANISH

"REPORT ON EXPLOSIVE DEVICE IN AUTOMOBILE ON PUBLIC THOROUGHFARE"

"This report was prepared as the result of a bombing of an automobile which took place at 12:45 A.M., on September 30, 1974, which was parked in front of #3351 Malabia Street, City of Buenos Aires, wherein Carlos Prats González, General in the Chilean Army and his wife, lost their lives.

"DESCRIPTION OF FACTS IN THIS MATTER

"The explosion took place in the front of the car, a Fiat 125, Model 1973, Vehicle Identification Number C-949.958, which was parked on the sidewalk, close to the gate used to gain entrance into the apartment building at #3351 Malabia Street.

"Reportedly, the vehicle was driven there minutes before the explosion. General Prats and his wife had attended a meeting five blocks away and went straight home from this meeting.

"The automobile was almost totally destroyed and after the explosion a fire ensued of such magnitude that it required a detachment of firemen to extinguish the flames.

"The force of the explosion shattered doors and windows in the building and damaged adjoining property as well as the garage of the building in question.

6 - Bureau
2 - Buenos Aires (1 - 157-35)
RWS:jn (S) (1 - 109-733)

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"The body of General Prats was found on the sidewalk about four meters away on the left side of the car and the charred mutilated body of a female, presumed to be his wife, was found on the right side of the car near the sidewalk. Her foot was found on the floor of the car, on the passenger's side.

"EFFECTS OF THE EXPLOSION

"Due to the extensive damages sustained by the vehicle, it was determined the explosive must have been placed under the floor of the car, near the front seats. The floor had a large opening of approximately .25 meters in diameter and the metal around the opening was bent in such a way, as was the metal on the seats, to pinpoint the impact of the explosion in that area.

"The universal joint was split in half and the transmission was deformed. The sidewalk where the car was parked, though, was only superficially damaged, which indicates that most probably the explosive was placed in or near the transmission.

"The roof of the car was blown off and thrown with such force that it landed on the terrace of a building situated on the opposite side of the street from the vehicle, about twenty meters away.

"The door next to the passenger seat was open and did not sustain great damage and the fire also slightly damaged it, so it is believed the door was open at the time of the explosion. The door next to the driver's seat was blown off and landed quite a distance away and was greatly deformed, so it is believed it was closed and was blown off by the force of the explosion.

"The fire which occurred as a result of the explosion was not immediate and it is believed it was caused by a short circuit produced by a damaged cable in the electric installation in the car, which was probably ignited when the gasoline tank broke. The battery was not damaged in the explosion.

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"It is pointed out that upon examination of the wounds on the bodies it has been concluded that General Prats was probably standing outside of the car next to the door or was half bending against the door, while the female was probably seated in the driver's seat when the explosion took place.

"CONCLUDING REMARKS

"In spite of extensive search at the scene of the explosion and the surrounding areas, no particles of the explosive were recovered which may have been due to the power of the explosion plus the fire.

"An examination of the electrical circuit in the vehicle did not disclose any foreign device connected to the cables, which indicates the device was placed by itself.

"Inasmuch as there were no traces of particles of the container in which the explosive may have been placed, it is believed it was of a flimsy material. Regarding the explosive itself, laboratory tests were negative since it was completely obliterated by the explosion as is usually the case when high explosives are utilized and this is also borne out by the large hole on the floor of the car.

"The following conclusions stemmed from the laboratory examination:

"(a) Container - Explosive did not have one or it was of the flimsy type (tin, cardboard, plastic, etc.), since there were no particles observed.

"(b) Explosive Charge - Approximately 300 grams of a high explosive (probably T.N.T.). This is borne out by the blackened condition of the interior of the roof, which was not damaged by the fire.

"(c) Ignition of Explosive - Although there is no

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positive proof of how the explosive was activated, it is pointed out that the car had traveled five blocks and that it was not of the type that would go off when the car was started. It is not felt it was activated by radio control, since the device would have been activated while General Prats was driving to make sure he was killed.

"It is therefore believed it was a time bomb. This type of explosive usually operates on batteries of 1.5 volts with a watch connected to the circuit and detonators to set the charge.

"The clock mechanism is set in such a way as to cause the explosion at a specific time.

"Placement of Explosive

"Under the floor of the vehicle by means of one or several magnets or connected with some type of wire.

"/s/ Principal CARLOS ALBERTO LOPEZ
Jefe a/c Div. Investig. - Depart.
de Explosivos
Superintendencia de Bomberos"

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RSO GEORGE S. BECKETT

12/13/76

LEGAL ATTACHE ROBERT W. SCHERRER

ASSASSINATION OF RETIRED CHILEAN
ARMY GENERAL CARLOS PRATS GONZALEZ,
9/30/74

Per our conversation, I am attaching a trans-
lation of a report concerning the bombing-assassination of
General PRATS, [which was prepared by the Federal Police of
Argentina Bomb Squad.] ~~(S)~~ (U)

I am also attaching a photograph of the remains
of General PRATS' automobile.

Attachments

- 1 - Addressee
 - 2 - Buenos Aires (157-35)
(1 - 109-733)
- RWS:jn (3)

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